Memories of OCKBROOK and BORROWASH

Marion Johnson

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INTRODUCTION

This booklet is a tribute to Frank Smith, parish clerk. He was born and brought up in Borrowash, went to school there and lived in the village all his life. He played a very full part in many of the local activities and in the Wesleyan Church. For thirty-two years he was clerk to the Ockbrook Parish Council.

In 1969, at the age of seventy-five, he wrote an article which surveyed the changes he had seen during his life. It is that article which forms the basis of this small book. Many of the topics raised by Mr. Smith are taken up and enlarged on using newspaper reports, unpublished manuscripts, and the reminiscences of local people. Most of the events are those of the first fifty years of this century, but there is more emphasis on the twenties and thirties than on other years.

This does not make the book into a parish history for many aspects of great importance are omitted. There is nothing on industry or agriculture, nothing on the churches, and the impact of two wars on the villages of Ockbrook and Borrowash is not dealt with. It is a first attempt to bring together some of that great supply of information on people which is in danger of being lost. It is hoped that it will encourage the preservation and collection of more material, both written and oral, for until a great deal of information is collected together the selection and organisation of historical fact cannot begin. Then, one day perhaps, the history of Ockbrook parish with its two villages will be written.

PREFACE TO THE REPRINT, SEPTEMBER, 1990.

This reprint gives the opportunity to correct errors in the first printing. The most significant and unfortunate of these was the statement that Frank Smith retired from the office of clerk to the Parish Council. This was not so; he died whilst still holding that office. At that time, 1969, Mr. J. Brennan was chairman of the council and it fell to him to gather up the minutes and records made by Mr. Smith over a period of thirty-two years, and to cover the duties of clerk until a new one could be appointed.

I am glad of the opportunity to make this correction and to offer my apologies.

THE OCKBROOK STORY by Frank Smith

Ockbrook and Borrowash have seen many changes since the horse and cart ruled the road. At great speed we can motor, at a greater speed we can fly; medicine and surgery have improved beyond measure; the magic lantern has given way to the cinema. The one-tenth of the population so shamefully existing below the poverty line is no longer part of our society and the days of the old pail closets are no more; and for all this progress we give thanks.

After thirty-two years as your clerk I have seen many changes; ours is a changing parish in a changing world. The parish of Ockbrook is losing its rural character and we see now a small town growing in our midst. The population of the parish thirty-two years ago was under 3,000; today it is 6,000.

When I took my place at the clerk's table for the first time I was very raw and inexperienced but I was fortunate to have a chairman who was wise and experienced, and no one had a wider knowledge of local government than Mr.E.W. Goodall. I revere his memory. I have served under seven different chairmen and I can say that in every case the man in the chair was public spirited and put the interest of the parish first and foremost. In the days gone by councillors were elected by a show of hands; now they are appointed through the ballot box.

During the years we have seen progress. Street lighting has changed from the days when four oil lamps provided the only illumination in the parish. We have seen the village lamp lighter trudging along with his ladder,lighting his lamps with a taper. We advanced a little further when we replaced the naked light with a mantle and at a later date we saw the introduction of electricity. When we look at our Group A lighting we agree that this is progress. There is a story well worth telling of one of our lamplighters who on more than one occasion, after lighting his first lamp near the White Swan, called for a drink and got drunk, and the other lamps remained unlit.

The march of progress is not always accepted kindly. We have deplored the closing of our local railway station. We have lost our canal. The loss of these services may well be deplored. We remember the days of the old Manor estate with its stately home residences of the Cumberlands and the Evans'family,- its spacious lawns, its dovecote, its magnificent lake stretching as far as the canal side. Only half a dozen houses could be seen in Manor Road and Princess Drive. Now the whole area has been developed into a modern housing estate and we have seen Princess Drive taken into the Ockbrook boundary after a petition signed by Princess Drive residents to be included in the Ockbrook parish. This was in 1935.

We have seen the passing of the old thatched cottage on Derby Road, once occupied by Mr. Coleman. The old coaching house stood nearby; it was here where the horses were changed before continuing their journey to Ashbourne. The ladies used to use the old cottage for rest and to powder their wigs. It is interesting to know that the Noah's Ark Inn was in use in 1771. It is necessary to mention the transformation of the parish in the Nottingham Road area following the building of properties in the district. We remember that a few years ago one could walk over the 'Lants' and on the whole of that estate there was only one house,a dairy farm. Progress hastens on its way.

This brings me back to Derby Road. We think of the old school days. Hundreds of children passed through the hands of Joseph Dunton, a beloved and respected schoolmaster. We remember little Miss Hardwick and Miss Stevens. We remember, too, the little corner sweet shop owned by Miss Dyche, where we could buy everlastin' sticks and pear drops.

At the other end of the parish we look down memory lane and I think of dear old Bishop Ellis, totally blind, the Moravian minister faithfully devoted to his flock. He was a writer of poems and one of the last he wrote was 'Captain Stephen'. He gave me a copy of that poem and I recited it on many occasions. Do you remember the 'chatterboxes', members of the Girls' School who used to parade in pairs from the Settlement to Borrowash village on most days? In those days there was a boarding school for boys as well as girls. I can remember the old German master, Mr. La Trobe, who was interned during the war. We think,too, of the Red Cross Hospital at the Lecture Hall in Ockbrook. The late Mr. Coles who died only recently, was one of the first patients to attend that hospital. Miss Mabel Nelson will be remembered for her work there.

Ockbrook was rich in friendly societies in those days and every Whit Tuesday the clubs paraded for a service at the parish church; the vicar at that time was the Rev. Lewis Lewis. The public houses were open all day and those who started drinking early were not always in a fit state to join the parade. I well remember attending one of these parades as a boy, a member of the 'Junior Foresters'. We had only been in church for five minutes when the vicar in a loud voice said,'AMEN'. Not being used to the Anglican service I thought that was the end, and I led all of the Junior Foresters out of church, only to be brought back at the double. I used to attend the Boys' Brigade at the Lecture Hall. Bishop Ellis was our Chaplain and I remember Captain Adams and Lieutenant Cotton. We were 'manned' with dummy rifles.

In addition to ordinary parish council business there were many extra jobs covering parish council work. Coronation celebrations, jubilee celebrations, victory celebrations,- I was responsible for organising these events. We had teas for all ages, a circus, firework displays with bonfire, and sports. The first time I helped in these events was at the end of the first World War,- victory celebrations. These were held at 'The Mount', home of Mrs. Eking and she paid all the expenses. What a great lady she was.

The second World War gave many opportunities for service. Along with Colonel Forman I was appointed co-ordinating officer of the A.R.P. We had to arrange for the distribution and fitting of gas masks and for providing stirrup pumps. People visited the area air raid shelters most nights, but we were not disturbed too often. We did have a bomb dropped in Manor Park and the area was cleared, but our local bomb disposal squad soon put us at ease. One of the big tasks in the war was to look after the welfare of our own local men and women serving in the forces. I acted as secretary of 'Appreciation Week' and we were able to raise many hundreds of pounds for troop comforts' funds. During the war years I was a Special Constable but with my time so much occupied with other things I never found time to arrest anyone.

The Ockbrook and Borrowash Pageants

One of the features of village life began in September, 1929. We had been trying to raise money for our hospitals which relied on voluntary subscriptions and we had not met with a great deal of success. We held cycle parades and whist drives and were able to raise a little money by these. A special meeting was called which I was asked to attend. There were only seven people,- a discouraging start. I was appointed secretary.It was at this meeting that I noticed a linen picture hanging on the wall; it was a picture of the landing of King Canute who was about to plan a Danish invasion of England. This picture gave me an idea of organising a pageant, and I set about it.

I got in touch with our young folk and soon we had three hundred volunteers to play their parts. We enlisted sewing machines and materials. Young men made chariots, shields, daggers and swords. We borrowed the Derby Canal and we held an Autumn Fayre. It seemed that everyone was in it. The talking point everywhere was the pageant; public imagination had been captured. Six boys volunteered to fetch the barge from Derby wharf. These boys rode in turn, two would pull and four would ride. Whilst changing riders at the Ulicker Bridge one lad missed his footing and fell in.

We were able to raise over £300. The pageants went from strength to strength and attracted hundreds of people every year. Special trains were run between Derby and Borrowash. We held seven pageants in all and then war was declared again and these occasions came to an end.

These were the pageants in order of performance:-

The Invasion of Borrowash by King Canute
Robin Hood and his Merry Men
The Hoardings Speak
At the Courts of the Persian Kings
Crown him King
King Pippin's Wedding Day

I think the last effort was our best and we raised over £400. Thanks to the Derby and Notts Electric Power company we were able to arrange for the whole length of Victoria Avenue to be illuminated with hundreds of lights, and crowds would flock to a site off Nottingham Road for a bonfire and fireworks display.

One effort stands out in my memory. We had a set of stocks put up in Victoria Avenue. People were 'arrested',put into the stocks, and charged ten shillings for their release. The village police sergeant was captured but he resisted arrest and we saw the strange sight of a burly sergeant struggling on the ground, his helmet rolling in the gutter. The position looked bad for the organising secretary who was faced with the threat of prosecution. However, matters were straightened out. The village stocks were not used again.

In 1933 I was made a governor of the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary in recognition of my work for hospitals.

Cricket

There were no playing fields in the parish in those days and in order to play our game of cricket it was necessary to enlist the services of a lamp post in Elm Street, and though the playing of street cricket may have caused a good deal of inconvenience at times, the local residents put up with us. For our more 'important' games we made a pitch on Farmer Clayton's field in Elvaston

Lane. This would entail the posting of a look-out to tip us off when the farmer came in sight. As our village copper did not favour street cricket either, the game was played under difficulties. But the policeman could not be in two places at once and the game went on.

We would toss for choice of innings by spinning the bat and calling hump or hollow. As you will appreciate our pocket money allowance was one half-penny each week, so we could not spin a coin. It was usually the boy who owned the bat who batted first. In those days we were never at a loss to find something to do. We had little time for vandalism. For us it was cricket and more cricket.

I was captain of the school team and on rare occasions we were permitted to use the village pitch and that would give us a real thrill. We always had a match with the London boys. The village team used to practise three times each week. We were not allowed on the playing area but we were allowed to field the ball when it came in our direction. How we used to try and show the older players how we could field and throw! On match days we would hang about the pavilion hoping to speak to the players and to say, 'Good afternoon, sir,' for we idolised the players as if they were test players. How we would creep into the pavilion to look at the faded photographs of former players who had graced the ground years ago! Little did I think that one day I should captain Ockbrook and Borrowash, and little did I think that one day I should score a century or perform the hat trick.

My first appearance with the Ockbrook and Borrowash first team, at the age of twelve, was against Castle Donington and in their team that day was John Shields, the Leicestershire County wicket keeper and captain, and George Richards, the Derby international footballer. I was sent in first to open the innings with Gaffer Dunton. The score was 7 Dunton not out, Smith 4 not out. Then a storm put an end to play and the field was under water.

In my early cricket days I used to be coached by Bill Alcock. We used to practise on the concrete floor in the cellar of the old cotton mill in Brook Road. Runs were hard to come by in those days; the outfield was long grass and only the big hitters were able to pile up runs. Old Bill Lindsey who loved his cricket approached me one day and offered the club the use of the whole of the Queen's Head ground at the charge of £20 a year. We took the offer and we purchased our first motor mower and runs became easier to obtain. For away matches we travelled in an open waggonette. There were two vehicles and one carried a small barrel of ale which was the custom in those days.

In 1914, along with Ernest Brennan, I had a trial at the Derbyshire nets but then came the first World War and cricket had to close down. In 1916 I joined the Royal Engineers and before going to France I was able to play some cricket. With the late Albert Andrews who played for Melbourne I was selected to play in several representative games whilst stationed near Aldershot. I played for a south of England team at Portsmouth. I played in two representative games in the Isle of Wight and once against an Australian side at Mitcham. Whilst in France we were able to play a little cricket. We played on matting wickets on the hard parade grounds. We met many county cricketers and I played against George and John Gunn at Dunkirk. We also played at St. Omer, Calais, and Audricke.

At the end of the war steps were taken at Ockbrook to get cricket on the move again. There were many difficulties,- pitches were in disrepair, money was short and we were faced with many problems. With hard work wickets were pitched again and once more we heard the sound of the bat hitting the ball. We would hear,'Well hit., sir,' and 'How's that?' Joyous cricket had survived the ravages of war. New players were found, young and promising cricketers who would keep the flag flying for many years. We think of players like Ray Coopey, Jim Loftus, Harry Crawshaw, Frank Hudston, Arthur Hodgkinson, John Bosworth, Joe Naylor, Ted Ludlow, Leslie Reader, and George Cookson, now stalwarts in the game. During these years we built up a youth side which proved successful.

I could tell many stories of Ockbrook and Borrowash cricket. I have seen the unfamiliar sight of a fast bowler bowling in a bowler hat at Duffield. I remember a match at Bramcote when we were put out for a modest 21 runs. An old professional was playing for Bramcote and he exclaimed, 'The wust batting side I've ever sane'. Then Wag Harrison, one of the longest serving scorers in local cricket, shouted to his counterpart,'Thee anner got'em yet an' thee wunner'. Bramcote had a four hit off my first ball, but we went on to win.

On the occasion of the Annual Moravian Synod the visitors played a cricket match. The Moravians were fielding and I think it was Bert Henshaw who hit the ball high into the long field where one of the reverend gentlemen was fielding. He raced for the ball and slipped into a real ripe heap of cow dung. He was covered by the smelly stuff from head to foot, and to add to his embarrassment his wig fell off. Not a happy day for the poor parson.

I was able to carry off the bowling honours for nine seasons in a row. Once at the prize award ceremony at the Royal Oak the bowling prize had not arrived. Hastily two old books were wrapped up and the 'prize' awarded and nobody was any the wiser.

After having recovered from World War I we found the country in a second world war and the problem of building up again was a colossal task. Our tea pavilion was completely destroyed and the ground looked impossible for cricket. The outlook was bleak, but by stages the club rose again and continued to progress. Thanks to the really hard work the club can boast of an excellent ground. It would be hard to find a better club.

I spent three happy years with the Nottingham Second Eleven as their honorary scorer, and they were very happy years. I was able to visit most county grounds and many beautiful country grounds. Failing sight put an end to my scoring days.

There is a story told about Bill Bestwick who was always arriving late at the ground. He was told by the secretary that he must attend the ground at 10a.m. the next day. Bill again overslept and so decided to take three days off. At the end of three days he discovered that he needed a certificate to confirm that he had been ill. The doctor could find nothing wrong with him and so just put a line on the certificate. The secretary asked Bill what had been the trouble and Bill replied that it was down on the certificate. 'But,' said the secretary, 'there is nothing on the paper but a stroke.' 'Ah,' said Bill, 'that's what I've had, a stroke.'

I have lived for cricket and whether I think of stately Old Trafford or magnificent Trent Bridge or of the more modest grounds like that of Retford, the memories I shall treasure most are those of the glorious years spent on the Ockbrook ground where I played and worked with many fine cricketers. Their names I shall always cherish.

Football

Although cricket was my favourite I was up to the neck in football. In the summer of 1913 I was asked to become secretary of Borrowash Victoria. We held our first meeting in a shed belonging to Mr. Rains. We were a boys' club and we obtained a field on Draycott Road which we called 'Coffee Joe's' field. This was because in the hay making season the farmer gave his men coffee to drink rather than ale. We had to pay 3/6 a year for the ground, and we paid 7/6 for our first set of jerseys. We were able to find dressing accommodation at the old Methodist Schools and this entailed a walk of over a mile to the ground. Our first match was at Borrowash against Pear Tree Athletic from Derby and we won by twelve goals to nil.

We played until war came when many of our players were called up and some were killed. The Vics, however, were reformed after the war and I was still acting as secretary and the club still used the Draycott Road ground. Then the landlord of the Queen's Head at Ockbrook invited the club to use the Queen's Head ground and we were paid £1 to use it. We changed our name to Ockbrook and Borrowash Vics and we had a long run. We won our first competition in 1920 when we beat Sawley United 1-0 in the Derbyshire Medals. My old grandmother watched the match which was played at Long Eaton.

War put a stop to football again for a time. When it was resumed we played on the Derby Road ground for a few years and then moved to Deans Drive. The Vics were a successful team and the club still carries on under the guidance of my nephew, Albert Anderton. I was in office for many years, first as secretary and later as chairman. The club now has two grounds available for football. The new ground on the Deans Drive extension has only recently been opened. The Bare Lane field is shared with Ockbrook and one is happy to know that the Ockbrook club is obtaining better results and is a much improved side.

Church Work

Church work has played a prominent part in my life. A life-long Methodist, I have served in several areas of church work. In my early youth I was appointed the general secretary of the Wesley Guild of Borrowash, a flourishing society that boasted over a hundred members. In 1926 I was appointed to attend a national conference at Easter in Bristol. This was my first introduction to church work. I served for many years as Senior Society Steward at Borrowash.

For over twenty years I was leader of the Borrowash Wesley Youth Club. The club had a great influence in the district and did much work in the parish. A lot of work was done for charity. The club took an active part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. Camping weeks and hostel work played a big part. The club became well known for the pantomimes it staged; over the years more than thirty were produced and these events brought a good deal of pleasure to those who took part and to those who attended. In 1966 I was presented to the Duke of Gloucester for my work for boys' clubs.

I organised many events for the Methodist Church, including two pageants dealing with the work of John Wesley. I worked, too, as a local preacher in the local circuits, and even up to two years ago I was acting as treasurer to the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire District Christian Citizenship Department. This work was very enjoyable and brought me into contact with a wide circle of friends in the Methodist Church.

The life of a Methodist is a busy one and opportunities abound for serving Christ. 'Go ye into the world,' says our Lord, 'and preach the good tidings to all men.'

I look back upon my busy life with no regrets. After living for seventy years I am happy to have served the parish I love so much. If I have made any real contribution to the lives of my fellows with this service, then I thank God that I have been given the health and strength to render it.

> I shall pass through this world but once; any
> good thing therefore that I can do, or any
> kindness that I can show to any human being,
> let me do it now. Let me not defer it, or
> neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.

Frank Smith, March, 1969.

THE GROWING PARISH

The 'Ockbrook Story' on the previous pages was the text of a speech made by Frank Smith whilst he was still clerk to the parish council in 1969. Before describing the more personal aspects of his involvement with the pageants, sport and the Methodist Church, he mentioned some of the changes he had seen in the parish of Ockbrook, not just during his term of office, but since his childhood. It is the object of this chapter and the next two to take up and enlarge on the points he raised. This cannot be a complete picture of the parish; it is a brief account of some aspects of the changes. The most significant of these changes must have been the increase in the number of inhabitants within the parish boundary.

The Growth in Population and Housing

In the first two decades of this century the population of Ockbrook parish showed a small increase, on average about 1.5% each year. In the decade 1921 to 1931 there was no increase at all. These ten years, however, did show a significant change in the number of separate households,- from 714 to 810, an increase of about 12%. These figures reflect two developments; first, the smaller size of the average household, and secondly the building of new houses, particularly in the Manor Road area in Borrowash. That the number and availability of council houses concerned the parish council during these years is clearly shown by the resolution before their meeting on March 16, 1925.

> 'This meeting of the Council, having learned that the Shardlow Rural District Council has under consideration the requirements of the parishes within the Union as to housing under terms of the 1924 Housing (Financial Provision) Act for the next two years, reiterate the request of the Parish Council in 1919 and 1924 that the District Council may see its way to provide 50 houses which are urgently required for working class families, and assures the District Council of its readiness to supply all available local information to the Council in order to enable it to meet the urgent needs of the Parish in respect of Housing.'

OCKBROOK PARISH: POPULATION

Year	Total	Number of Households	Percentage Increase in Population
1891	2,166	496	
1901	2,567	579	19
1911	2,807	662	9.4
1921	2,969	714	5.8
1931	2,971	810	0
1941	- -	- -	
1951	3,456	1,122	16 over twenty years
1961	5,278	1,753	52.7
1971	7,107	2,320	34.5
1981	7,393	2,621	4

From The Census Returns of England and Wales.

The average number of people in each household shows a steady decrease, as would be expected, but the averages hide the extremes and do not show the overcrowding in some homes which, according to some members of the parish council, was severe. The council meeting in June, 1937, (early in the first year of Frank Smith's term of office), sought to remedy this by the provision of more council houses. The concern of some members was countered by the complacency of others, and the press report (quoted on pages 18-19) reflects the heat of the argument.

There was little time and few resources to be given to housing during the years of war and the years immediately after, although the population continued to increase. During 1944 the parish council corresponded regularly with the Shardlow Rural District Council, sometimes acrimoniously. In April the parish asked that they might be shown the plans of the S. R. D. C. which affected the parish. The reply stated firmly that the R. D. C. was not prepared to show the plans, nor to give the parish council any responsibility in the letting of the council houses. By November in that same year the parish council was threatening to send the correspondence to the press. In December Shardlow asserted that the sites for building had not yet been decided, but by January, 1945, the Prior's Barn area had been decided on. The letting of the new houses was to remain under the Shardlow council as, they maintained, the homes were being built for the Rural District of Shardlow, and not for the parish. Even after these decisions had been made progress was slow. By December, 1947, only sixteen houses were being built, and these were to be let by the R.D.C. to miners and agricultural workers, not to those families already living in the parish. Ockbrook parish council protested and asked for a share of the greater number of houses which were being built in Spondon.Eventually the great estate at Borrowash was completed and its development accounts for the population increase of more than 50% in the ten years, 1951 to 1961, and of more than 30% in the decade after 1961.

Public Services

The number of houses for letting was not the only concern; of equal importance were the services provided,- the water supply and the sewerage system. In the early part of this century the parish council seemed unwilling to undertake as much responsibility as the law allowed. Rate payers were informed in 1907 that they must wait at least another year before the matter could even be considered. When the matter was discussed in 1908 the Medical Officer for the Shardlow Rural District Council reported that many homes had polluted water supplies. Thirty-eight houses depended on five wells which were described as badly polluted; thirty-seven houses got their water from four wells which had water contaminated by an excess of nitrates. Three other wells were reported to be supplying fairly good water. The cost of installing a piped water supply was such that the scheme was rejected. Not until 1925 was the scheme to provide Derwent Valley water accepted. This did not solve all problems; in 1937 the Shardlow D. C. was 'to be informed of the dirty condition of the drinking water supplied by the Shardlow District Council in Manor Road and Kimberley Road.'

The saga of the sewerage system went on for longer than that of the water supply. When, in 1921, the sewerage scheme was discussed the chairman protested at the way in which the Shardlow District Council was attempting to introduce the improvements without proper consultation. The cost to the parish would have been over £7,000 and perhaps this was the reason why the scheme was rejected, rather than the stated reason that the 'the present sanitary state of the parish is satisfactory.' The cottagers with the pail closets probably disagreed with this and would resent that decision even more by 1940 when the clerk 'was instructed to write to Mr. Forman and ask if the usual collection of ashes each week could be resumed. It was pointed out that many houses had been visited only three times this year.' The date of this instruction was March 3rd. The meeting on May 1st. 1940, gives the impression that Mr. Forman had taken action, but in a way not approved by all. 'A petition protesting against the hours the day when lavatory pans were being emptied in the Derby Road district was received; the clerk was instructed to pass this on to Mr. Forman.'

The last known reference to these closets comes in the council meeting of November, 1947:-

> 'In reply to the council's complaint in connection with the collection of night soil, the sanitary officer said that landlords owning pail closets had been instructed to have water closets installed; this would do away with the collection of night soil. It was not found possible, he stated, to have these closets attended to at night. The council appreciated the efforts being made to have the pail closets converted into water closets, but the members were concerned as to what would happen between the time it would take for the change-over. The clerk was instructed to ask for steps to be taken to obviate collection during the day.'

URGE FOR MORE COUNCIL HOUSES

MAJORITY OF ONE

MEMBER ALLEGES OVERCROWDING

"GRAVE CONCERN"

A resolution 'strongly urging Shardlow Rural Council to build more houses at Ockbrook and Borrowash as soon as possible' was passed by a majority of one at the monthly meeting of the Parish Council at Borrowash Schools last night.

The resolution stated that the Council viewed with grave concern the scarcity of housing accommodation which still existed in the parish of Ockbrook and Borrowash.

Mr. F. Coaley, who had given notice of motion that he proposed to raise the question of housing, moved the resolution, and it was seconded by Mr. A. West, who alleged that a great number of people were living in overcrowded houses. People, he said, were forced to find other accommodation at Spondon. This was to the detriment of the local authorities.

"COULD SUGGEST SITES"

Mr. West added that Mr. Coaley and he had decided to do all they could in the matter. It had been alleged that one reason why no council houses were being built was that there were no suitable sites, but he said that he could suggest suitable sites.

Mr. F. J. Spicer, a representative of the Council on the Rural Council, asked where Mr. West obtained his information of overcrowding. He believed that from records there were only nine or ten cases of overcrowding, but Mr. West spoke as though there was a large number.

Mr. Spicer continued that there were quite as many houses in the parish, in proportion to its area, as in any other area in the Shardlow Rural District. There was also a satisfactory number of council houses in the Rural District compared with other areas.

Members of Shardlow Council, he said, were generally of opinion that no more council houses should be built in the area because houses were being built by private enterprise to such an extent that it was possible in the course of another three or four years the building boom would have changed almost into a slump. If that happened it was possible that council houses would be left vacant and thrown on the Council's hands, so that they would be a burden on the ratepayers. (cont.)

BUILDING COSTS

Mr. Spicer added that houses built by private enterprise could be secured for a deposit and weekly payments which were little more, if any, than rents of council houses. He also referred to the increase in cost of building materials, and remarked that a London local authority was hesitating over building more houses because of that.

Mr. F. J. Gilbert said that there had been no applications to the council from anyone wanting houses, and he was not aware that there was overcrowding to any extent. He preferred that houses should be built by private enterprise than by the Council.

Mr. W. Brooks, who is also a member of Shardlow Council, endorsed Mr. Spicer's remarks.

LIVING IN LOFT

Mr. Coaley said that there were people with children living in a loft at Borrowash, and people with children were also living in a tennis pavilion.

Seventy houses, he said, had been built in 20 years, which was an average of three and a half a year, which, he thought, was a poor attempt to solve the housing problem. He understood that there were 125 names on the books for houses.

Mr. Spicer said that the estimate of the applications was incorrect. There were 90 waiting for houses, and many of them were from outside the area, and these would not be considered until people in the district were served.

Mr. E. W. Goodall, the chairman, said he thought people left the parish because they wished to be nearer their work.

(Derby Evening Telegraph, 3rd. June, 1937)

THE CHANGING PARISH

The changes in the parish noted by Frank Smith in his address include those in transport and street lighting, the loss of the canal and Borrowash railway station and the demolition of some old houses. Only the first two of these were under the control of the parish council, but all helped to change the face of the two villages.

The gas lights slowly gave way to electric. It was in 1929 that the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Electric Power Company informed the council that the 'electric lighting of the lamps in Victoria Avenue and Station Road would be ready for September.' There were still both gas and electric lights four years later:-

> 'A new agreement was entered into for three years with the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Electric Power Co. for the lighting of 52 street lamps at a cost of £156 per annum, payable in two equal instalments. The extra cost of converting eight lamps from gas to electric light was £40. The Council were invited to visit the company's power station next month. An agreement with the Derby Gas Company for gas lighting was confirmed.'(1)

Three electric lights were fixed for Priorway and Conway Avenue in 1937, the same year in which the Gas Company was asked to improve the lighting in the twitchell by the Infants' School in Ockbrook. The next year it was the turn of Collier Lane to have its lights, and another light was put outside Ockbrook Post Office 'to help the posting of letters and getting stamps from the machine.' Not until 1945 were the remaining gas lights disconnected and the street lights became all electric.

When looking at the problems of the roads in the villages which faced the parish council, one is struck by the persistence of the difficulties. There have always been pot-holes in Ladysmith Street ; traffic has always been dangerous. It was in October 1937 that it was first suggested to make New Street into a one-way street, or alternatively to close it to all traffic. The reasons were the amount of traffic in such a narrow street and the danger to pedestrians. The County Council did not accept the recommendation. A dangerous junction occupied the parish council for quite a time in 1938. This was the road junction at Shacklecross. The parish council suggested to the County Council that there might be a traffic island, or that the road might be re-aligned along the footpath which cut off the acute bend. Until a solution had been found the parish council wished to have a policeman on point duty at this junction 5.30 to 6.00 on weekdays and on Saturday mornings from 12 to 1. The problem remains and possibly the plans are still on the table.

Another dangerous junction, where Victoria Avenue meets Nottingham Road, received frequent attention. Belisha beacons were requested in 1937. When the corner shop became empty the County Council was informed that here was an 'opportunity to purchase these premises with a view to improving a very dangerous corner.' The purchase was made but the course of the road remains the same. This small patch of land was later thought to be an ideal site for public lavatories. Fortunately the war prevented the building of these at such a central and conspicuous site, but the small patch remained a problem for the council. It was chosen as a good position for the parish notice board. It became the collecting point for scrap metal in war time, and when no longer needed for this the public convenience plan was raised again. In 1950 the Wesleyan Youth Club offered to tidy up the plot and plant shrubs, an offer which the council accepted 'provided there was no undue expense to the parish in laying it out'. But the council did pay for the building of a wall to raise the bed and the Wesleyan Youth Club's work was appreciated.

There are those who remember playing whip and top up the centre of Victoria Avenue from this junction to the letter box. This must have been in the days when Mr. Moore the wheelwright kept a pony and trap for collecting passengers from the railway station. A similar business was run by 'Cabbie' Pegg of Top Manor Farm, Ockbrook, who had the advantage when it came to transporting the Ockbrook schoolgirls to the station. Cars were few. When Dr. J. W. Smith came in 1924 he first went on his rounds on a bicycle. It was a memorable event when he acquired his bull-nosed Morris. Mrs. Eking of the Mount had a Daimler and this, with Mr. Birkinshaw's car led at least one pageant procession. By the thirties playing in the road, even in Victoria Avenue, had become rather more hazardous. There were failures to keep to the speed limit in the avenue, on Draycott Road, and in Coal Lane.(2) In the forties it was the open-cast coal lorries which were considered the main culprits; in the fifties the blame was spread more widely.

There are other means of communication with which the parish council concerned itself. An outside telephone kiosk was badly needed at Ockbrook where the only public telephone was inside the post office. The request was first made in 1938; it was not installed by 1941. A pillar box was needed in Princess Drive, and the request for this was also made in 1938. The post master of Derby was still saying in 1946 that this was not possible.

Another of the duties of the parish council which had always been taken seriously was the provision of allotments. Here again it is not so much the changes that have to be reported but the continuity of the struggles. The council has, through the years, been asked to help with the problems caused by invading goats, sheep and dogs, and to maintain the fences and gates. Pilfering was a big problem in the thirties and forties, and in January, 1942, when damage had been done, the clerk was instructed to write to the parents of the boys concerned.

Among the changes in the parish over which the council had no jurisdiction, it was perhaps the closing of the Derby Canal which caused the biggest change in the landscape of the south of the parish. The Derby Canal Company announced the abandonment of the canal in 1964, but for many years before that the argument on whether to restore or to fill in had been going strong. A newspaper report in 1961(3) quotes an inhabitant of Manor Road:- 'That's our canal- an abomination. It's been neglected, forgotten and ignored for years and that's the result.' He was looking at the mass of weeds and undergrowth. 'Instead of barges there are discarded boxes and refuse. Instead of pleasure boats there are bicycle wheels and debris.' At that time there were locals who remembered boating from Borrowash to Boston, and skating all the way by canal to Sandiacre. They remembered barges 'by the dozen'. Some of the residents of Manor Road had their own boats and landing stages. The Canal Restoration Committee argued that many more goods could be carried by canal and so relieve the roads; that it would be cheaper to restore than to fill in; and that 'it would certainly enhance the appearance of suburban-looking, semi-industrial rural communities like Borrowash.' The parish council did not pledge itself either way; the chairman, Mr. J. Loftus, thought that the majority of the inhabitants were in favour of it being re-opened. It was a matter which concerned several neighbouring parishes and Ockbrook council contacted them asking for a joint meeting. At the November meeting, 1961, it was reported that 'Spondon and Draycott Parish Councils see no purpose in holding a meeting to discuss the future of the Derby Canal'. The response of Ockbrook's chairman was ,- 'We are getting no support and I do not feel that Ockbrook can take up the cudgels for all other parishes.' The council decided that it could only wait to see what action would be taken by Derby Corporation. Photographs of locals boating on the canal at Borrowash with the Manor Road houses and the lock cottage in the background (4) give some indication of what has been lost.

The loss of the canal, the demolition of Borrowash Manor and of the cottages at the bottom of Victoria Avenue and in Grundy's Yard, have all changed the appearance of Borrowash, quite apart from the transformation brought about by the new houses. Ockbrook changed comparatively little until a sudden rise in house building began about thirty years ago. Even the shops in Ockbrook changed much less than those in Borrowash. Pre-war, both villages were fairly self-sufficient for everyday shopping, as the advertisements reproduced show (p25-26). Ockbrook had Winterton's sweet shop in a cottage near the church. There was a bakehouse at the bottom of Bakehouse Lane. Mr. Collins the shoe repairer lived and worked at the big house at the bottom of New Street. Church House, now gone, was occupied by Mr. Byatt, sign writer, painter and lamp lighter. Mrs. Beardsley was the newsagent and and had a grocery shop in Green Lane. In the same lane Mrs. Dorothy Hide kept a 'general' shop at Ivy cottage and a butcher's shop was kept by Mr. Bertram Hill. The shop of Henry Plant was at the corner of New Street and Church Street and was kept for many years after his death by his three daughters. For some time after 1931 this shop was also the post office. Mrs. Annie Allcock was a grocer and tobacconist in Church Street and in the same street was Mr. A Hunt, a general shopkeeper. Coates Bros. had their 'family butcher's' in Flood Street. At Church Farm the Simpkin's family was still making butter and cheese.

The shops in Borrowash were more numerous and varied. Before the building of the Manor Park estate the line of shops on the south side of Derby Road extended further towards Derby in a row of single storey buildings. These reached almost as far as the petrol station where a young Bromilow started work at the age of fourteen, selling petrol at 3½d. a gallon. The long row of shops included the shoe repairer, Mr.Seth Smith, more often called 'While Thursday', as that was the stock answer to the question, 'When will they be ready?' Mr. James, the newsagent; a chemist's shop, first kept by Mr.Parkin, then by Houseley, and then by Rhodes; a confectioner and tobacconist; a hardware shop;a second-hand furniture shop; Skinner's the butcher; and for some time, the post office. The largest of the shops on this stretch was that of Ernest William Grimes and Co., which extended round the corner into Station Road. Grimes was the draper's shop which stocked every thing from pins to congoleum. On the north side of Derby Road was the small sweet shop of Miss Amy Dyche, haunt of the children after school, in the last cottage of a row which still stands. At the junction of Derby Road and Victoria Avenue was the wet fish shop kept by 'Fishy' Elston. He delivered on his bicycle and rode straight through his shop door on his return; tradition has it that this manoeuvre was most successfully accomplished when he was not quite sober. (It was the demolition of this shop in 1937 which created the problem triangle of land at the junction.)

On the north side of the Nottingham Road was first the Foresters' Arms, then Hamnett's green grocery with a bowling green behind. Before this it was the post office and afterwards it became Radford's green grocery. There was Electrical Supplies, kept by Messrs. Preece and Holmes, who were electrical engineers. There was the farrier, Mr. Wright, who made coffins in addition to making hoops for the children. Mr. William Moore was wheelwright and blacksmith. Somewhere in this row was a dentist. There was a fish and chip shop at the corner of Chapel Street, first kept by Mr. Bosworth, then by Mr Harrison, and later by the Stathams. There was a joinery business in Chapel Street. Mr. Blood the baker did his baking at the back of the house next door to the present post office. Then came the very big concern of Barron's Nurseries, which grew 80,000 roses a year. Their landscaped gardens were always open to the public on August Bank holidays in aid of local hospitals. Many villagers worked at the nurseries and school children spent their holidays earning a little by weeding. Facing these was The Motor House (J. W. Bartlett). Here it was possible to hire a bicycle for a day for 2d. Also on this side were Mr. Burge's butcher's shop, Mills' family grocer, and lastly, The Noah's Ark at the corner of Station Road.

Victoria Avenue started with a row of cottages attached to the Foresters' Arms, where tenants used to sit out on the pavement. On the opposite side, was a line of several shops as now. These included Mrs. Bosworth's wool and haberdashery, the Nadins' sweet shop, Mr. Burdett, the butcher, Miss Moggs the hairdresser, Mrs. Mee's grocery, and George Morgan's green grocery. Mr. Haddock had his grocery at the corner of Elm Street, facing Mrs. Moore's hardware shop. There was a stone mason, Mr. Hodgkinson where now there is Illsley's garage. There was Walker's bakery and Burnham's market garden. The Co-op had two shops in addition to the one at Ockbrook.

The shopping facilities seem to have been more than adequate in the two villages. This was matched by a good supply of skilled workmen living and working within the parish. A few of the bill heads of these local tradesmen are reproduced (p27-28) to illustrate this. It was not necessary to go out of the parish for daily needs. This self-contained character of life, common to most parishes at this time, was also seen in the way in which entertainment was found, or made, within the parish boundaries.

YOUR CHEMIST.

S. A. RHODES

(Late Parkin) M.P.S.

Keep the Children fit on . .

"Vitality" Malt and Oil
1 lb. 1/3 2 lb. 2/3

Try "Junips" for Backache
10½d. and 2/3

We specialise in . . .

Cattle Cod Liver Oil
Toilet and Surgical Requisites

PRESCRIPTIONS DISPENSED AT ANY HOUR

THE PHARMACY, BORROWASH
Tel. 55140

Phone: Derby 55303

E. W. Grimes & Co., Ltd.

DRAPERS,

LADIES' and GENT'S. OUTFITTERS
and HOUSE FURNISHINGS.

Reliable Household Linen, Fancy Neckwear, Ladies' Underclothing.

Noted House for Ladies' Ready-made Dresses, Blouses, Jumpers & Coats. The Latest Fashions at Town Prices. New Goods in this Dept. Weekly.

A Large Variety of New Casement Cloths. Soft Furnishing, Linoleums, Carpets, Rugs, Casement Fittings of all Descriptions. Estimates given. Fitted and Laid free.

Congoleum Squares, Lino Squares, etc
Gent's Outfitting, Ties, Socks, Collars, Shirts, etc

DERBY ROAD and STATION ROAD,
BORROWASH.

A. L. FOSTER,

PRACTICAL WATCHMAKER
ALL KINDS OF WATCH, CLOCK
AND JEWELLERY REPAIRS.
AND ODD MOUNTINGS.

All Clock Repairs called for and Delivered.

Send Post Card—
A. L. FOSTER,
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(J. B. & A. J. HUDSTON, Partners)

Authorised Plumbers,

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BOTTLED MILK !

Straight from the COW to the CONSUMER

Licensed "Grade A" Milk
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DRINK CLEAN PURE MILK.

Milk is food and drink combined—
Food for the body and the mind

Just drop a card to—

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Beef and Pork Butchers

Victoria Avenue		Flood Street
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WE ARE NOTED FOR QUALITY.

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A. HAMNETT,

FRUITERER, GROCER,
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NOTTINGHAM ROAD, BORROWASH.

FRESH FRUIT & VEGETABLES DAILY.
TINNED GOODS A SPECIALITY.

Carting and Draywork promptly attended to.

If satisfied, please recommend me to your friends.

TEL. DERBY 55177

J. W. HADDOCK

FAMILY GROCER and
PROVISION MERCHANT,

VICTORIA AVENUE, BORROWASH

Bread, Flour, Cakes. Brushes, Leathers, Floor Cloths.
Agent for PEACH'S PIES & SAUSAGE.

A GOOD ARTICLE AT A FAIR PRICE

From Ockbrook Parish Magazine, 1939.

EAT MORE HONEY

It is the best combined FOOD, TONIC & MEDICINE, having at the same time a beneficial effect on the heart, stomach and kidneys. The predominating colour of honey gathered in this district is medium to dark, and the quality cannot be surpassed. Ask for Hill's Honey from any of the following—

BORROWASH—J. W. HADDOCK, A. HAMNETT
OCKBROOK—B. HARRISON, P. HOULDSWORTH, W. PLUMMER, TIBBLES & HILL; OR DIRECT FROM THE
Producer: H. HILL, BELMOUNT, OCKBROOK

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EXPERT TUNER AND REPAIRER OF
PIANOFORTES, PLAYER-PIANOFORTES,
AMERICAN ORGANS & HARMONIUMS.

VICTORIA AVENUE, OCKBROOK

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H. COLLINS

NEW STREET, OCKBROOK
for
BOOT AND SHOE REPAIRS.

Military Soles and Heels, Pads, Tips, Socks, Laces, &c.

Established 1840. 'Phone—Derby 55548

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BUILDER & CONTRACTOR
HEATING & SANITARY ENGINEER
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Authorised Plumber under Derby Borough Waterworks Dept. and Shardlow R.D.C.

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ESTIMATES FREE.

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GENERAL WOODWORKER
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Vehicles of all descriptions built and repaired.
Agent for Dunlop H.D.V. Equipment.
Garden Seats Sheds Ladders Barrows Trucks, etc.
Contractor to the Derbyshire County Council.

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Alvaston St., Alvaston

Green Lane, Alvaston Street,
ALVASTON, DERBY

ONLY THE FINEST
BACON STOCKED!

FINEST WILTSHIRE
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Specialist in Tea Blending.

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Family Grocer and Provision Merchant,
BORROWASH. 'Phone: Derby 55586
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All Electrical Work carried out guaranteed for 3 years.

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Glazing and Sash Cording promptly attended to.

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One Quality only—THE BEST.

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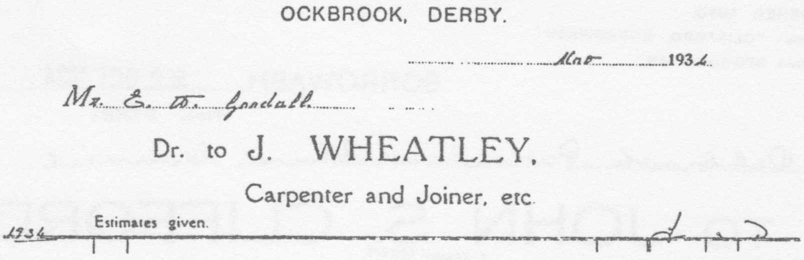
High-class
Beef and Pork Butchers,
Green Lane, OCKBROOK
Phone: Derby 55157.

Finest Quality ENGLISH BEEF,
MUTTON and PORK.
SAUSAGES, POLONIES and
COOKED MEATS, HOME-CURED
HAMS and BACON.

Meat kept in Cold Storage during hot weather.

PORK PIES A SPECIALITY.

From Ockbrook Parish Magazine, 1939.



OCKBROOK, DERBY.

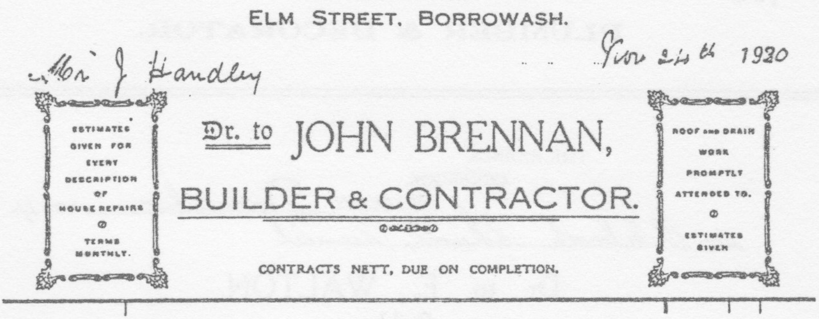
Mar 1934

Mr. E. W. Goodall

Dr. to J. WHEATLEY,

Carpenter and Joiner, etc.

1934 Estimates given. £ s d



ELM STREET, BORROWASH.

Nov 24th 1920

Mr J Handley

ESTIMATES GIVEN FOR EVERY DESCRIPTION OF HOUSE REPAIRS

TERMS MONTHLY.

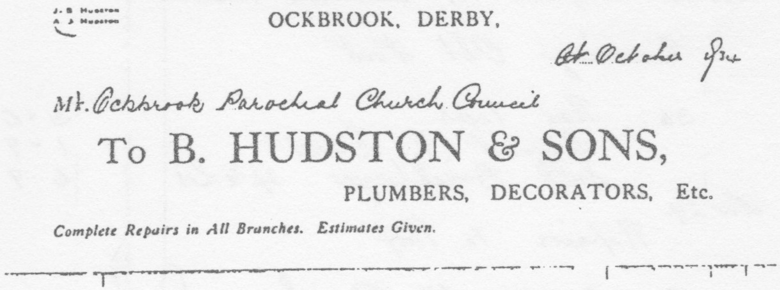
Dr. to JOHN BRENNAN,

BUILDER & CONTRACTOR.

ROOF AND DRAIN WORK PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.

ESTIMATES GIVEN

CONTRACTS NETT, DUE ON COMPLETION.



J. B. Hudston
A. J. Hudston

OCKBROOK, DERBY,

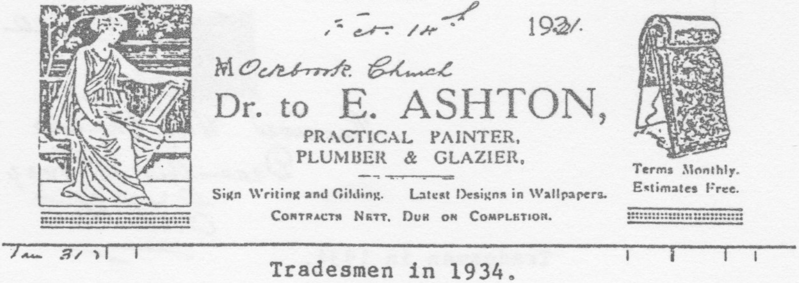
1st October 34

Mr. Ockbrook Parochial Church Council

To B. HUDSTON & SONS,

PLUMBERS, DECORATORS, Etc.

Complete Repairs in All Branches. Estimates Given.



OCKBROOK.

Feb. 14th 1931.

M Ockbrook Church

Dr. to E. ASHTON,

PRACTICAL PAINTER,
PLUMBER & GLAZIER,

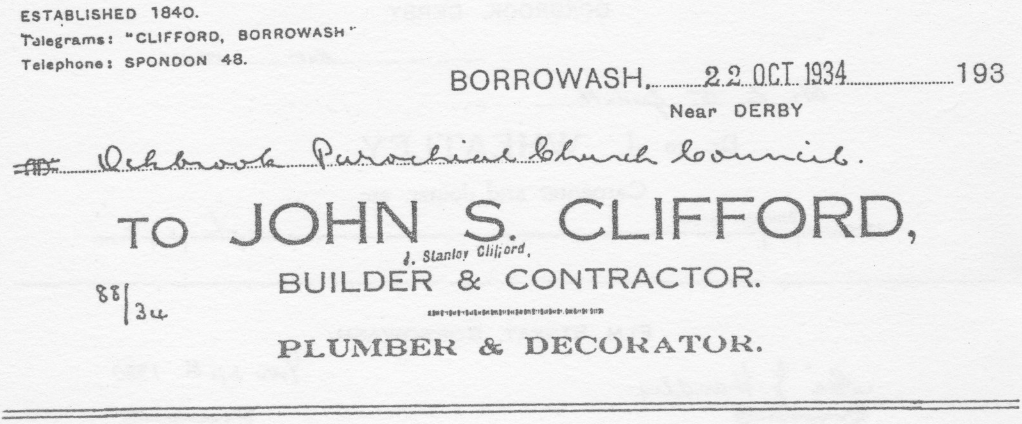
Sign Writing and Gilding. Latest Designs in Wallpapers.

CONTRACTS NETT, DUE ON COMPLETION.

Terms Monthly.
Estimates Free.

Jan 31/31

Tradesmen in 1934.



ESTABLISHED 1840.
Telegrams: "CLIFFORD, BORROWASH"
Telephone: SPONDON 48.

BORROWASH, 22 OCT 1934 193
Near DERBY

~~Mr~~ Ockbrook Parochial Church Council.

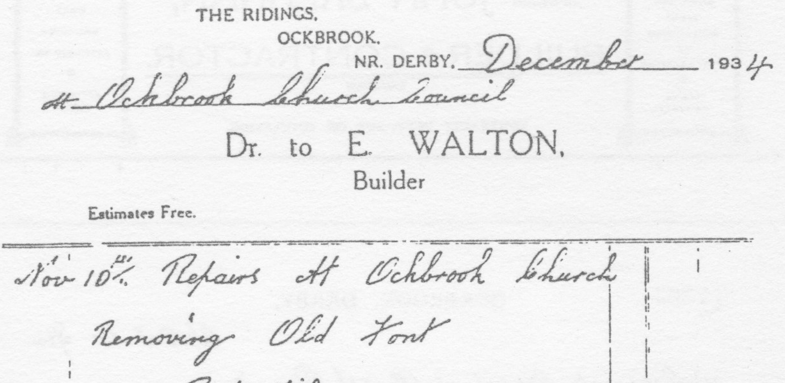
TO JOHN S. CLIFFORD,

J. Stanley Clifford,

BUILDER & CONTRACTOR.

88/34

PLUMBER & DECORATOR.



THE RIDINGS,
OCKBROOK,
NR. DERBY, December 1934

Mr Ockbrook Church Council

Dr. to E. WALTON,
Builder

Estimates Free.

Nov 10th	Repairs At Ockbrook Church	
	Removing Old Font	
	36. Red Tiles	3 " 0
	Cement & Sand	1 " 9
	Self Bricklayer 4½ hrs	6 9
Nov 24	Repairs To Roof	
	2. 9 x 3 Air Bricks	1 " 6
	11. lb Rufoid Paste	10 " 6
	Self Bricklayer 13 hrs	19 " 6
		£ 2 · 3 · 0

Paid

E. Walton

Received With Thanks
December 1st 1934
E. Walton

Tradesmen in 1934.

MORE CHANGES IN THE PARISH

More significant than the physical changes have been the social developments. At the time when Frank Smith was a boy in this parish, medical services were few and in comparison with the wages, they were costly. Hence the importance of the Friendly Societies and the hospitals' committees. A local society was the 'Foresters'. Members of this sociey paid 2½d. a week to ensure their medical treatment by the doctor. On Whit Tuesdays they marched with their banners to the church service and then on to the Royal Oak. There they had their annual feast, which had been prepared from gifts,- the farmers gave rabbits, the butchers gave joints of meat, the gardeners gave the vegetables. On the same day the children walked in procession to Borrowash, except the smallest who were taken in Mr. Lewesley's wagon. They then went by barge on the canal to Draycott for tea. For the rest of the year the association had a very serious purpose.

Money for the hospitals had been collected by flag days and carnivals since the Ockbrook and Borrowash Hospitals' Committee had been formed in 1902, and within thirty years that committee had raised £2,500. This was in addition to other efforts and collections, such as the annual Hospitals Sunday collection from the churches, illustrated by this letter:-

> Derbyshire Royal Infirmary Sunday Committee.
>
> 5 December, 1932
>
> To Ockbrook Church (J. Handley Esq.)
>
> On behalf of the Sunday Committee, I beg to acknowledge, with many thanks, the receipt per the bank of £4. 4s. 3d., the offertory from your church towards the general funds of this institution.
>
> I have much pleasure in forwarding the recommendations to which you are entitled in return for such collection.
>
> Again, thanking you,
> I am
> Yours faithfully,
> W. Banks, secretary.

The recommendations were for free treatment at the hospital and were given to deserving patients of the parish.

School children had a particularly rough time early in this century. The schools were cold and the rooms often crowded. Both Ockbrook and Borrowash teachers reported the occasional shortage of coal. It was reported at Borrowash, one morning in 1901, that 'at 10 a.m. the temperature had reached 48 degrees, but the first portion of the room remained decidedly cold.' Two years later Her Majesty's Inspector was still complaining of defective heating. For many years the ash pit lavatories at Borrowash School were situated near to the door and the inspectors objected strongly to 'the unsightly and unhealthy ash pit opposite the entrançe.'

The first mention of an inspection of children by a visiting nurse at Borrowash School comes in 1914. Nurse Gomm, the district nurse, inspected the children's eyes, teeth and hair. At Ockbrook school Dr. Hunt inspected all children over the age of five in 1919. Throughout the first thirty years of the century epidemics were frequent and severe. The two schools at either end of the parish did not always suffer at the same time. Ockbrook seems to have escaped the worst of the diphtheria and influenza epidemic in 1918. Borrowash suffered its full force and at least four of its pupils died in that winter. Two of these were a sister and a brother of Frank Smith. The school was closed from November 4th. until December 2nd. All exercise books were burnt and all the materials. Reading books were sent to be disinfected. Even so there were more cases of diphtheria in the new year. Ockbrook in 1919 suffered a measles epidemic.

There was little that could be done at parish level to ease this situation; it had to await improvements in standards of living and in health care at a national level. The parish council could work only on the perimeter of the problem by urging improvements in school buildings and in sanitation and helping with the provision of play areas. The rest was left to national legislation and to voluntary effort.

The provision of playing fields and other facilities took up quite a lot of council time and effort from the 1930s onwards. The children in Borrowash had found their own playground on the site earmarked for the new school. This was in Victoria Avenue where Ashbrook school now stands. The plans had been long in the making; the bricks had been delivered; the delays multiplied until war came, and there a halt was called to such building. The piles of bricks were useful to those youngsters playing at houses, and efforts to stop them proved unsuccessful. Their parents also found good uses for the bricks so that there were none of the original supplies left when building was finally begun.

Serious work on the provision of playing fields began in 1938 when the parish council asked the Shardlow Rural District Council for permission to use Bloso House Field and a piece of land at the bottom of Kimberley Road for playing fields. Later in that year the parish council set up its first sub-committee to deal with playing fields. Its members were Messrs. West, Coaley, and Gilbert. This sub-committee inspected possible sites, such as the'top end' of the Ridings and Mr. Naylor's field over the Lants. They were found to be unsuitable, and war brought plans to an end. The parishioners, however did not forget that there was a need for open space for recreation, and some thought more ambitiously of community centres. A petition was drawn up and presented to the parish council in November, 1942. The minutes reported:-

> 'A petition has been received from a number of parishioners asking the parish council to consider the purchase of the Manor House and grounds at Borrowash. The clerk had made enquiries re the cost and had also been in touch with the Playing Fields Association. The Council were agreed that the price of £3,000 which was being asked was much too high. The clerk was instructed to write to the Shardlow Rural District Council to ask if the County Council had power to make a compulsory purchase order at reasonable terms which could be estimated by the County Council valuer. It was resolved that a meeting be called for November 18th. at 8p.m. and the owner be asked to attend.'

At this meeting the owner, Mr. Sarson, made it clear that he was not willing to lease the land and property until after the war when borrowing restrictions would be lifted. Then the Shardlow Council said it could not recommend a compulsory purchase order. Finally, in August, 1943, it was decided that the Manor grounds were not suitable for playing fields anyway. Another public meeting was called to consider finding other playing fields.

Eventually land at the bottom of Deans Drive was bought from Mr. Shemwell. Within one year there were fears that a new road would be driven through these new playing fields, to link Prior's Barn estate with Victoria Avenue. This disaster was averted. The fields were officially opened in 1947.

New powers granted to parish councils in 1948 allowed them to acquire buildings for entertainment and community activities. Financial help was to be available. This was taken up with enthusiasm, the council considering that a village hall 'would be a splendid acquisition to the parish and fulfil a long-standing need.' (Had the Manor been bought five years earlier the parish would have already possessed the finest village hall in Derbyshire.)

The action decided on was to write a letter to the vicar, the Rev. I. B. L. Gibbs, asking whether the parochial council would sell a piece of church land next to the Church Hall, or would they lease a piece of land to the parish council; if not, then the parish council would be prepared to make an offer for the Church Hall. This was not the most tactful of communications. The minutes of the next meeting do not reveal the contents of Mr. Gibbs' reply, but there was a resolution 'that the letter remain in abeyance.' The clerk was instructed to see Mr.Gibbs and explain that the matter would be left for a time. In fact the matter had to be left for quite a number of years.

THE PARISH COUNCIL AND ITS MEMBERS

Parish councils were established in 1894. By the Local Government Act of that year councils were to be elected in all parishes with a population of more than 300, an innovation which separated the lay and church elements of local administration. The duties of the new councils included looking after footpaths, cemeteries, lighting, and the provision of allotments. The minutes of the early meetings of Ockbrook council show that the members were not very clear as to the limits of their powers. A letter was sent to the Midland Railway suggesting that they change the time of the afternoon train from Derby. The answer was 'No'. The council also asked the Midland Railway to give attention to the 'naming of Borrowash station.' This is not explicit, but it may be one reason why the name of the station was changed in 1904 from 'Ockbrook and Borrowash' to 'Borrowash'. At their second meeting they considered a letter received from the curate-in-charge at Ockbrook church, the Rev. R. Lethbridge-Farmer, suggesting that trees should be planted along the road from Borrowash to Ockbrook which at that time was called Ockbrook Lane. The council agreed that this was an excellent idea, but they were unable to take it up because they had no funds. The idea was not forgotten and in 1897 trees were planted on that mile-long road to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. They were the gift of H. T. Alton of Borrowash Manor.

One other unusual item concerned attendance at the meetings. Whilst there are no specific references to poor attendance by the members of the council, they thought it necessary to impose on themselves fines for lateness and for non-attendance at the meetings. After the hesitant start of the first year they were doing their duty in keeping footpaths open, in attempting to buy land for allotments, and in controlling the roadside gardens and waste lands. These latter were a legacy of the enclosure of the fields in 1774; they bordered the roads and could be occupied and cultivated by parishioners who paid a small rent for them.

The list of members of the first parish council looked remarkably like the membership of the parochial council. This was not unusual, for the business men, the landlords and the richer inhabitants had for many years assumed responsibility for parish organisation, and although very often accused of serving their own interests, many of them gave a great deal of time and money for the benefit of the parish. Two names which constantly recur in the records of Ockbrook are those of William Mallalieu and Joseph Birkinshaw. Both were members of the first parish council.

William Mallalieu was born at Ockbrook, the son of a Moravian Minister living at the 'Swallows' Rest' (now the Grange) in the Settlement. He served on the County Council and on Shardlow District Council, as well as being chairman on the Ockbrook Parish Council. He was chairman of the Ilkeston Divisional Conservative Association and he served on many boards of charitable institutions. He was a Justice of the Peace for Derbyshire. William Mallalieu earned his living as the Income and Land Tax Commissioner for Morleston and Litchurch.(1) The locals maintained that he owned half of Ockbrook; certainly there were many cottagers who paid one shilling a week rent to him. The sale catalogue of 1920, when his estate was broken up soon after his death, makes impressive reading. It included three farms,- Priors Barn, Church Farm and Ridings Farm. There were four small holdings and a long list of enclosures of grass, arable and nursery land, and plantations. Amongst the houses sold were a 'country residence known as Ridings House', three houses with land, three villa residences (Dunster, The Cottage, and Fair Haven on Nottingham Road), and twenty-nine cottages.

Joseph Birkinshaw was a Northumberland man who came to Ockbrook Boys' School for his education. He began his career as a draughtsman with the firm of Andrew Handyside, the Britannia Iron Works, in Derby. He later worked in Birmingham where 'he designed a state coach for the Khedive of Egypt, which was accepted in the face of world-wide competition.'(2) It was claimed that he also 'invented' the post office pillar box in 1863.(3) Since in that year he was only sixteen, it seems unlikely, but if he was by then already working at Handyside's, then it is possible he had some connection with its production. He had financial interests in the South Wales Coalfield, and in tin plate works there. 'His business capacity was the result of faith in his projects. Rising early he would travel to all parts of the country; he took a keen interest in his work. He was keenly interested in his workers' interests , and they knew him and loved him.'(4) He lived at Fell Side in Coal Lane; he died in 1933. A summary of his work by an Ockbrook reporter, (Miss Maude Mugliston of Ockbrook Manor) may be partisan, but it summarises his politics and philanthropy:-

> 'A staunch conservative, he fought gallantly and always without bitterness, the losing battles of his side when

> Ockbrook and Borrowash were in the Ilkeston Division, and with equal fervour the occasional winning battles when they were transferred to South Derbyshire. His money, his time, and his experience were devoted to the service of his party, but it was always the party, and never his own share in the struggle, that he kept before the public. Some years ago Mr. Birkinshaw declined public recognition, although his friends would have liked to have seen him honoured for his services. Perhaps next to his own family, Ockbrook Church stood highest in the affections of Mr. Birkinshaw. When his children were at home there was not a Sunday when the whole family was not present in the family pew in the parish church.... Mr. Birkinshaw was church warden for over forty years, and his practical interest in the church was undiminished to the end of his life. He was a generous supporter of the finances of the church, as he was to all the charities in the district.'(5)

It was Joseph Birkinshaw who paid for the restoration of Ockbrook Church tower; he paid for the building of the new organ chamber; he presented a stained glass window and a bell. He had a lych gate built in memory of his first wife and his parents.

The names of Mallalieu and Birkinshaw appeared many times in accounts of functions and events in the parish, showing that they were active in many areas. In later years other names became familiar as councillors and their chairmen took active parts in village life in addition to working on the council. Frank Smith stresses the quality of the chairmen under whom he served but he names only one. The chairmen from the twenties onwards included F.J.Gilbert, Ernest W. Goodall, the Rev I. B. L. Gibbs. F. C. Cope, W. Addy and E. W. Fielding. Since 1952 the chairmen have included Allan West, John Archer, Jim Loftus and Jack Brennan.

These, of course, were elected members who could influence and decide policies, but the parish clerk is an appointed employee. The second clerk to be appointed, when the council was still under a year old, was Joseph Dunton, the hard working school master who received no salary for his labours. A later appointment was William Winterton, a shopkeeper of Ockbrook who was also church warden. Then the post was held by T. W. Cotton who resigned in 1936. Following this, the advertisement for the post attracted fourteen applications including those of Frank Smith and Allan West. Both of these were short listed and Frank Smith was appointed.

This chapter on the parish council has named many men, but as yet not a single woman. The first year in which women were elected to the council was 1945, a quarter of a century after the first woman Member of Parliament entered the House of Commons. They were Mrs. Armin and Mrs. Pape. The following year Mrs. Archer of Little Hay Grange and Mrs. Kinsella were elected. Later Mrs. Maud Allen was elected and was a very active member. Only one instance is known of feminine influence being exerted before 1945. This happened in 1933 and the pressure did not come from within the parish council. There was in the parish at that time an organisation calling itself the 'Borrowash Social Service Society of the Unemployed'. In September of that year this society sent a deputation to the Ockbrook Parish Council asking them to consider once again the proposal 'to embark on a scheme for providing playing fields in the parish, primarily to provide work for the unemployed.' Mrs. Annie Eking was a member of the deputation. This lady has had frequent mention in these chapters because she was so often engaged in village affairs. She was the daughter of Edward Elsey of Hopwell Hall. She was widowed fairly early in life and became very much involved in the parish. She was described as 'an outstanding personality at Ockbrook ..... a helper and supporter of every society, club and charitable institution in the district and her interests are almost innumerable.'(6)

She was not a member of the council, nor was another member of the 1933 deputation who must be named. This was Allan West who was the organisation's secretary, the same person who failed to be appointed clerk a few years later. Within one year of that failure he had been elected to the council and both minutes and newspaper reports show that he immediately took a big part in the debates, particularly those concerning housing and the provision of playing fields. Described as 'the man at the heart of the Labour Party's growth in Borrowash', he was on the council when it first had a Labour majority in 1963. He had three periods as chairman and for some time was on the South East Derbyshire Rural District Council.

To return to our central character, Frank Smith. When appointed clerk in 1937 his salary was £25 a year. For this he did not only write the minutes and deal with the correspondence. Some matters were delegated to the clerk and the chairman, and the minutes frequently include such statements as:-

'The cleaning of the cemetery to be left in the hands of the chairman and clerk.'(1937)
'The clerk to fill in forms and send them to the National Fitness Committee.'(1938)
'The clerk was to provide posters for the A.R.P.'(1939)
'Efforts for the local troops were left to the chairman and the clerk.'(1940)

> The matters concerning the evacuation of children left in the hands of Messrs. West and Alger and the clerk.'(1941)

Throughout these years Mr. Smith worked first at the Midland Railway offices at Derby and then for the East Midlands Electricity Board. He had married in 1936 and was widowed in 1940. He retired from his work in 1959 but continued as clerk to the council for another ten years after that. He was in the news in 1961:-

> 'After 23 years as clerk to Ockbrook Parish Council, Mr. F. Smith, who has never missed a meeting, was unable through illness to attend Wednesday's meeting at Ockbrook. It was agreed to send him a letter wishing him a speedy recovery.'(7)

So far as is known he did not miss another meeting. He died in September, 1969.

SPORT

The first five chapters have concentrated on the parish and the parish council. There remain two items which figure largely in 'The Ockbrook Story',- sport and the pageants. These deserve their own chapters.

Cricket and football are dealt with so fully it might be thought there was little other sport, but this was not so. The free physical activities which all youngsters seem to have indulged in were swimming in the canal and walking. The canal claimed several lives including one of Frank Smith's brothers and a son of 'Lockie' Smith of the Lock House. The Girl Guides had their country dancing and the scouts their camps. For adults there were several bowling greens including one next to the Manor and one behind the Wesleyan Chapel approached up Hamnett's yard. When the last bowling green in Borrowash went, Mr. Farmer-Clowes of Victoria Avenue made his own in his front garden. Many of the larger houses had their own tennis courts and there was the Ockbrook and Borrowash Tennis Club on Nottingham Road. Miss Amy Henshaw is well remembered cycling down the avenue with tennis racquet. There was a ladies' hockey team in the thirties and later a men's hockey team. All of these flourished at a time when the population was less than half its present size.

The reminiscences in the first chapter about cricket and football leave little to add to the account of their history in the parish. The Ockbrook and Borrowash Cricket Club was established at least as early as 1872 and the club celebrated its centenary by publishing a souvenir booklet on its history and its members.(1) The team came to be called the Ockbrook Vics because at one point eight members of the team lived in Victoria Avenue. These included 'Whackie' Harrison who was batting in 1892 and still batting in 1933.

In the early days the club had the use of the field next to the Queen's Head, where conditions were not of the best. When Bill Linsley was the landlord he allowed only a small area to be mown and the rest of the field was pasture for his cattle. The pitch was better when Mr. Oates was landlord for he allowed more mowing, but then war came in 1939 and that created problems. There are many tales about the difficulties. Rumour has it that the Borrowash Victoria Football Club tried to take over the cricket pitch and goals and nets were set up. The younger cricketers were away in the forces and not able to defend their rights, so the older cricketers, members of the Home Guard, had to protect the pitch. Football matches, we are told, were interrupted by marl being spread by teams of men with small buckets. In 1945 the Home Guard cricketers staked out the wicket. Their advantage was that the Queen's Head had been the headquarters of the Home Guard for the duration, and Mrs. Oates (for Mr. Oates had sadly lost his life serving in the Merchant Navy) looked on them kindly. The footballers moved to the field above, but not for long because it had a good slope on it. The ex-Home Guard filled out the cricket team until de-mob began and the 'real players' took over. Billy Martin, the wizard slow bowler, was said to have been a prime mover in all this. The problems were still formidable. The bank balance stood at 13s. 2½d. in 1945. Keen players ran prize draws and sold football tickets, begging prizes from local shop keepers.

A similar story of hard work and enthusiasm can be told of the Borrowash Victoria Football Club. It was much younger than the cricket club, having been started in 1911. It was not the only boys' team at that time. It was not the only adult team in the parish in the twenties when it had to disband for lack of support. In the thirties it revived and had two teams playing in the Long Eaton League.(2) The club was not doing so well in 1948 when the parish council considered applications for the use of the new pitch on the hard won playing fields. Cole Lane United and Borrowash United were granted permission, but not Borrowash Victoria. Despite this they still managed to be a successful team.

Their success was not limited to the football pitch. In 1969 Ockbrook Parish Council was planning to build a community centre in Charnwood Avenue. The council itself gave £1,000 to the project and this was matched by £1,000 from the Victoria Football Club. Never again would they have to walk a mile and a half from changing room to pitch.

PRESS REPORTS

OCKBROOK GIRL GUIDES. Ockbrook District Girl Guides Association's annual district inter-company competitions for the folk song and folk dance silver shields took place on Friday in the Spondon Church of England Schools. All the district companies were represented. Miss Nelson presided and several of the local association members were present including Mrs. Eking, president, Mrs. Shaw, treasurer, ... The shields were presented by Mrs. Eking, and the successful companies were 1st. Borrowash Guides for singing.....

(March 6, 1931)

BORROWASH BOWLS CLUB. The annual distribution of prizes at the bowls club took place on the ground on Saturday afternoon. Mr. A. R. Henshaw,J. P. president of the club, presided, and gave an interesting survey of the past season's operations. He said they welcomed Mr. W. J. Skertchly's presence among them as a prize winner, for he was in his 90th. year. Tribute was paid to the work of their secretary (Mr. Hammond) for the club, who was away on holiday. They all welcomed Mrs. Eking among them to present the prizes for she had taken a lively and generous interest in the welfare of the club. The club which had 50 members, was founded in 1914, and has an excellent green and pavilion for the members. The following were the awards of the prizes presented by Mrs. Eking:- President's Prize, a gold wristlet watch and pipe and pouch (given by Mr. Henshaw), to Mr. J. Loftus; Eking Silver Challenge Cup, to Mr. T. W. Cotton; a pair of woods (given by Mr. Pearson Skertchly), to Mr. Albert Borrington; club prize of a case of fish knives and forks, to Mr. Haddock; an electric stand lamp (given by Mr. Millington) to Mr. W. J. Skertchly. The rest of the afternoon was spent in games between the members.

(September, 22, 1933)

FROM OCKBROOK AND BORROWASH PARISH MAGAZINE

September, 1925:-

Owing to the many cases of measles in the parish we have thought it fit to postpone our Treats for the children until they are all well enough to join us.

It is now proposed to start a troop of Boy Scouts in our parish. It will be definitely connected with the Church, so it will be incumbent on those who join to attend Church Parade once a month. We want to do all we can for the young people. The future welfare of our village or even our country depends upon the love for order and discipline we instil into the minds of the young.

October, 1931:-

Wanted to hire, a field for our Sunday School and choir boys on which to play football, Saturdays only. This is not asking too much. Will someone oblige?

PAGEANTS, PROCESSIONS AND PANTOMIMES.

The emphasis that is placed on the pageants and dramatic productions in the various accounts of Frank Smith's work tends to hide the fact that there had always been many activities and entertainments in Ockbook and Borrowash. The villagers had a very active community life, as did most parishes at this time. The residents provided their own entertainment. During those years when Frank Smith was a pupil at the Borrowash National School there were frequent dances, parties, plays, and concerts held in the school rooms. These were not school events; they were organised by various bodies within the parish. There was a tea provided for the 'old inhabtants', which meant a day's holiday for the children. There was a dance for which the room was decorated on the previous evening, but no-one had warned the teacher that the room would not be available for teaching on the day of the dance. Plays were performed and sometimes resulted in broken desks. The museum case was broken sometime during the evening social of the Sunday School teachers. There was a two day holiday for the children's concert and prize giving. After this the mantelpiece was found broken as some of the audience had stood on it to get a better view. There were many other events which had no such unfortunate consequences.

Outside happenings were not ignored. There was a holiday for the annual Wakes, when the roundabouts occupied the field next to the Queen's Head. There was no holiday for Draycott Wakes, so the children played truant. They went out to see a menagerie passing through the village. They watched the performing bears. There was a holiday given on the relief of Mafeking and when the news of the fall of Pretoria came the children had an impromptu procession carrying flags provided by the local shopkeepers.

The village event most often remembered was the Cycle Parade, when all the parish cyclists were joined by the decorated drays and horses of the Midland Railway and the Co-op coalman, Harry Whyman.(1) The cycles too were decorated,- enormous hoops of flowers, aeroplane wings and other flamboyant decorations meant the cycles had to be pushed. Local bands joined the procession. The parade started at the Wilmot Arms, went up Victoria Avenue, down New Street and Coal Lane and back to the Wilmot Arms. This event, like many others was in aid of the Hospital

Fund. Then there were the cycle rides round Manor Park, the Maypole dancing, and the flower shows, also for the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary. The Benefit Club had an annual procession through Ockbrook followed by a bean feast at the Royal Oak. The streets were decorated and the road to the Moravian Settlement had a great arch bearing the word 'WELCOME'.(2)

During the twenties and thirties the dances, whist drives, concerts and plays were held either in the schools, the Wilmot Hall, the Moravian Lecture Hall, or the Church Hall. The dances in the Church Hall, which was erected in 1924, were mostly in aid of the Sunday School or church funds. The girls and their mothers organised refreshments; the printing of tickets was 'properly done' and, to pay for these preliminary expenses the Dyche girls, the Holmes girls and the Kennedy girls would ask round the villages for donations. They expected one or two shillings, but Mr. Birkinshaw and Mrs. Eking usually gave a pound. There were dances almost every week and the Rev. Ll. Gibbs attended as 'chaperon'. There were other dances, of course, including the end of season cricket club flannel dance. Some whist drives were held in the Settlement, and Borrowash players went up by bus. They would tell the bus driver which bus they expected to catch for the return journey, adding, 'Wait for us if we are not at the stop.' And he did.

The children did their share of entertaining. The dancing teacher, Mrs. Southall of Princess Drive put on an annual pantomime to show the skills of her pupils, -some as young as four years. This was done in the Wilmot Hall. Mrs Gibbs, the vicar's wife and Betty Pearce assisted with the pantomimes and also with concerts. There were adult dramatic societies such as the Ockbrookians and the Ockash Players, producing revues, plays and concerts. The talents of the Ashton family of Green Lane, of Dr. and Mrs. Smith, of Ken Bunting, Eric Alger, Bill Reedman and others are still remembered. The church organists, A. E. Mitchell and Harry Garratt helped the vocalists in these productions. Talented residents performed at concerts put on in the large houses. At 'The Hollies' (now Borrowash House), Mr. G. Stewart-Bunning hosted a concert organised by the Hospitals' Committee of Ockbrook.(3) It was so crowded that some had to spend the evening walking round the garden. Miss Garratt of Elvaston and others sang and the silver collection raised £6..7s.

The local press faithfully reported many of these events, and some of their reports are quoted.(p 45) So many varied activities and so many organisations within the parish must have involved hundreds of people, and the Hospital committee had organised annual flag days for many years; yet after 1929 some reports give the impression that all events and performances were in the hands of

Frank Smith alone. One wonders whether the established workers had their feelings hurt by this. The separate organisations, however, continued, and no doubt were just as active throughout the years. The change brought about was that their individual efforts for the local hospitals were co-ordinated and many of them were concentrated into one week-end of the year. Goodwill was probably maintained by delegating the detailed planning to the existing groups and clubs. Appreciation of the work done by scores of helpers is expressed many times.

That the carnivals of the thirties were made possible only by the long hours of graft by a large number of nameless workers is borne out by the minutes of the Hospital Committee. These minutes written by the secretary Frank Smith are extremely brief. The committee and its secretary saw themselves as co-ordinators and the burdens fell on the sub-committees and their co-opted members. It was these sub-committees which appealed for volunteers for sewing, carting, cooking, stewarding and all the other jobs. As Frank Smith said in his retirement speech, 'Every-one took part.' At the meeting in September 1932 the chairman 'remarked upon the splendid spirit that had been shown throughout the hospital work.' The following year the president 'expressed much satisfaction at the splendid enthusiasm shown during the hospital day arrangements.' Giving credit to all the anonymous workers does not detract from the achievements of the committee and secretary; it enhances their reputation for leadership and enthusiasm.

It was the pageants performed on the carnival days which took the headlines, but there were numerous events on those days. Perhaps the best way to appreciate how much went on is to read the newspaper reports, so some have been quoted on the pages following this chapter.(p46-49) Many cast members are named in these reports but for the names of other workers we have to turn to the minute book. The committee in 1931 was:-

President,	Mr. A. J. Aitken
Vice-president,	Mr. J. Birkinshaw
Chairman,	Mr. C. A. Walker-Smith
Treasurer,	Mr. B. A. W. Alger
Secretary,	Mr. F. Smith,
Asst. secretary	Mr. Ted Ashton

Public meetings were held once a year to present the accounts and in June, 1931, one hundred and seventy people attended, 'a record for any hospital meeting.' The accounts were printed and those of 1932 are reproduced here.(p50-51) The collecting boxes were productive as everyone not otherwise engaged was expected to carry one. Mr. F. Doran remembers stopping buses on the main road and boarding to collect from the passengers. The buses carrying the Celanese shift workers were well worth boarding. Children also had their collecting boxes and could win a prize for the largest collection.

At the public meetings related activities were announced. The 'Sacred Concert' which usually rounded off the weekend of festivities was sometimes given a repeat performance later in the year. A Robin Hood's Dance was arranged in November following the Robin Hood pageant. And there were the pantomimes. These were the fund raisers to finance the following year's pageant, and so an essential part of the hospital work. Did those who had produced pantomimes in earlier years give up? Or were there many pantomimes performed each year?

Frank Smith wrote and produced the pantomimes. He also played the Dame every year. One of his cast thinks this was because he liked the limelight. Another remembers how the script was changed at each rehearsal, with the result that the characters found they had to make up quite a bit for themselves. Nevertheless they were successful, and the proceeds bought the cloth for the costumes for the next pageant.

Then in January, 1934, there was an announcement that might have changed everything. The meeting began with the presentation of the accounts which showed 'a splendid sum.' There were thanks from the chair and from the secretary to 'all the workers for their support during the pageant preparations.' The next item on the agenda:-

> 'A presentation was made by the president to the secretary, who announced his retirement at the end of the year; the presentation took the form of a book-case and writer's bureau, the gift of the people of the villages. The recipient suitably responded.'

This is where the minute book comes to an end. A new secretary must have made minutes of the later meetings, but that minute book seems to be lost. There were three more pageants on hospital days after Frank Smith's resignation, and he seems to have been in charge. Was he persuaded to return to the task? The newspaper report of his resignation gives a hint of more things to come. He is described as a pilot,-'scores flood to render him ready help. Therefore everyone regrets his retirement from public work. He is sensitive to a degree and feels the need of a rest and it may be that after a short time he will resume his activities.'(5) The report goes on to quote Smith himself,'Though I am going to rest for a time from official public positions, I suppose I shall again be in the thick of any useful work, my nature is such, and no useful organisations like our own should go unaided.'

PRESS REPORTS

FLOWER SHOW. There was an attractive display of vegetables, fruit, and flowers at the annual show of the Borrowash Ex-Service Men's Club on Saturday afternoon in aid of the extension fund. Mr. J. J. Spencer(president) in opening the show, spoke of the enjoyment of cultivating flowers and vegetables and to the healthy competitive spirit which relieved many idle moments. Hearty thanks were expressed to Mr. J. Chapman who had worked very hard to make the show a success......

AUTUMN FAYRE. A capital twenty-four page handbook of the fayre, which takes place on Saturday next in aid of the Hospitals and District Nursing Fund, has been issued. It has been prepared by Mr. Frank Smith, assisted by the Handbook Committee, and contains two excellent black and white drawings of the arrival of King Canute at Borrowash and of the Mayor and Mayoress of Ockbrook in their chariot, the drawings being by Mr. J. Dann of Derby and given to the Hospitals Committee. Miss Thompson of Brookfield, Borrowash, will declare the fayre open. The handbook has been well supported by the local trades people and is artistically produced and bears on each page an apt quotation. During the past 26 years, it states, over £1250 has been raised locally for the hospitals. Abundant attractions are announced for the local and visiting public.

(September, 19, 1930)

OCKBROOK DANCE. The Ockbrook and Borrowash Hockey Club held a dance in the Church Room on Friday evening. Mr. F. Gilbert was M.C. The Cuckoos' Dance Band from Spondon was in attendance. Spot waltz prizes were won by Miss D. M. Naylor and Mr. K. Bunting.

WHIST DRIVE. On Saturday evening the Ockbrook and Borrowash Primrose League (Pares Habitation) held a whist drive in the Church Room. Mr. P. Innocent was M.C. Mr. A. R. Henshaw congratulated the members on the result of the election and said that they had polled 85 per cent of the electors for the government. **WESLEYAN BAZAAR.** In aid of the debt on the trust of the Borrowash Wesleyan Church, a gipsy fair bazaar was held in the Wesleyan School Room on Saturday afternoon and evening. The stalls were provided by the Ladies' Sewing Meeting, Young Men's Bible Class, the Wesley Guild, and Sunday School, the stall holders and helpers being dressed in picturesque gipsy costumes. There were refreshments and various competitions and games, an indoor post office, and gramophone selections (lent by Mr. G. Preece). The proceeds of the bazaar were approximately £30.

(December, 4, 1931)

OCKBROOK ALLOTMENT SHOW The annual show of the Ockbrook Far Lane Allotments' Association was held at the Queen's Head, Ockbrook, on Saturday. Mr. F. C. Norris is secretary and the association presented 81 entries of exceptionally well grown produce, considering the dry season. Messrs. Woodward and Nicklin were the judges, and the show attracted many visitors. The judges' opinion of the exhibits was that it was a very good show.

OCKBROOK & BORROWASH

CARNIVAL

Despite the rain on Saturday, the Ockbrook and Borrowash Fayre for the hospitals attracted over 1,500 spectators. Mr. Frank Smith, with his genius in organising, assisted by Mr. Edward Ashton and the committee, and a great host of workers, captured the public imagination and crowds turned out to witness the opening event, the arrival of King Canute on his barge, 'The Viking,' at the canal side, Borrowash.

Proceeding up Station Road, 'King Canute' with his men at arms, stepped into his chariot and moved up the Victoria Avenue, which was gaily bedecked with flags and streamers. News had been despatched to the 'Britons' at Ockbrook who, led by 'King Edmund' and 'Prince Eric, the Grasper,' came to a clash of arms with 'Canute' and his invading force, when the crowds witnessed a battle between the 'Danes' and 'Britons' in which broken swords, helmets and hatchets were left behind.

Meanwhile the 'Mayor and Mayoress' of Ockbrook, headed by the Witan (clad in robes and led by the sheriff), invited the two 'kings' to the fayre.

The characters in the pageant included:-King Canute (Ronald Facer), King Edmund(D. Alger), Prince Eric(Mr. J. Ashton), Queen Emma(E. Matchett), Baron Duncan(G. Dean), Princess Agatha(Miss Norris), Sheriff(A. Hudston), Mayor and Mayoress of Ockbrook(E. Ashton and F. Smith), Herald(E. Cash),Jester(G. Evans), Messengers mounted on horseback(Miss E. Naylor and Mr. Waring).

OPENING CEREMONY

Miss Thompson, (supported by Mr. Thos. Moult, president of the Fayre, and Mr. Banks of the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary, and a large assembly including the kings and Queens and their retinue clad in their brilliant attire), in graceful terms declared the fayre open, and was heartily thanked by Mr. Bunning and Mr. Frank Smith on behalf of the assembly.

Three hundred children, conducted by Mr. Roberts, assisted by Mr. H. Garratt, sang 'John Peel', 'Land of my Fathers', 'Scots Wha' Hae', and 'The Minstrel Boy', and the whole audience joined with them in singing 'Land of Hope and Glory'.

There were numerous stalls by the various organisations and churches in the parish at which brisk business was done. These included the Moravian Parish, St. Stephen's, Wesleyan, and Primitive Methodist Churches, Ockbrook Girl Guides, Brookside Tennis Club, the V. A. D.'s, Buffaloes, Women's Co-operative Guild, Mothers' Meeting, Cricket Club, Ex-Servicemen's Club, Golf Club and others. The Toc H boys from Derby and a jazz band from Spondon secured a considerable sum in collecting boxes. There was an essay competition for children on 'Why we should help the hospitals' (The Rev. E. Birtill acting as judge). Excellent music was provided by the Derby Military Band. Three Punch and Judy shows were given for the children by Mr. T. G. Duval. In addition there were numerous side-shows......

The flower, fruit and vegetable show was eminently successful. Mr. E. Smith was secretary and fully a thousand people inspected the large variety of fine exhibits. Messrs. Barron and Son and Mr. Cholerton, junr. provided two beautiful stands........The produce was sold for Fayre funds.

In the evening there was a crowded attendance at a dance in the Church Hut, at which Dr. J. W. Smith was M. C. and the Adelphi Band provided the music. Simultaneously a whist drive, arranged by Miss Henshaw, was held in the Lecture Hall. Raffles for a basket of fuit and a doll given by Mrs. Lester realised 14s. and £3 respectively. The proceeds counted on Saturday evening amounted to over £180, which will be considerably augmented, and a record financial result is anticipated.

(September, 26, 1930.)

UNIQUE PAGEANTRY

OCKBROOK AND BORROWASH

HOSPITALS FAYRE

'Help the Hospitals' was the oft repeated desire of the vast crowds at Ockbrook and Borrowash that witnessed the brilliant events on Saturday at the annual effort for the hospitals. The village was truly en fete, flags were displayed from the houses, and festoons of flags and decorations stretched across the roads.

Saturday's effort was the climax of the organising genius of Mr. Frank Smith (the hon. secretary) and his band of several hundred helpers. Two pageants, one for the children and one for the youths and maidens, attired in the costumes of 23 nations, set out simultaneously from Borrowash and proceeded up the Victoria Avenue. King Carnival(Frank Smith) in full regal regalia led, followed by the president's car (Mr. E. H. Howard), the Long Eaton Silver Prize Band, John Bull(George Dean), and Britannia(Miss Nellie Norris), the youths and maidens forming the senior pageant of the Nations of the World, and the children's pageant. There were leaders on horseback, Miss Edna Naylor (as a Welsh woman) also mounted, decorated cars, drays, etc. The costumes and dresses of the great procession (half a mile long) gorgeously attired, made a truly magnificent spectacle.

OPENING CEREMONY

The Vicarage field was the rendezvous and here were marquees and side-shows galore. The opening proceedings consisted of a unique international tattoo in a vast enclosure where the procession stood at attention in front of the grandstand, having saluted by dipping the flags before John Bull and Britannia.

Mrs. March of the Grange, Ockbrook, who was supported by Mr. and Mrs. J. Birkinshaw of Fell Side, having declared the Fayre open, was presented by Britannia with a lovely bouquet of carnations.

The stall-holders in the marquee represented the following organisations in the parish:- Moravian Church, cornflower; Ockbrook Parish Church, rose; St. Stephen's Church, marguerite; Women' Institute, almond blossom; Women's Co-operative Guild, poppy; Mothers' Meeting, sweet pea; V. A. D.; Wesleyan Church (refreshments), apple blossom; Primitive Methodist, Borrowash, daisy. There was abundant provision in the way of amusements for the visitors which included the following:- Primitive Methodist, Ockbrook, Chinese Laundry; 2nd. Ockbrook Girl Guides, Ye Olde Magic Pump; 1st. Borrowash Girl Guides, bran-tub; Ockbrook and Borrowash Cricket Club, coconut shy, roundabouts etc.; Ex-Servicemen's Club and Institute, hoop-la; Golf Club, bean bags and roll penny; Sir Henry Wilmot and Drury-Lowe Lodges, skittles; Borrowash Football Club, elephant racing and wheel of fortune; Brookside Tennis Club, push-penny; Meadow View Tennis Club, Susanne's court; Wesley Guild Cycling Club, clock golf. Other attractions included dancing displays by Madame Aspley's pupils, from Derby, Mr. T. G. Duval's Royal Punch and Judy show and ventriloquial entertainments, a cricket match between Ockbrook and Melbourne Town, a whist drive by the Ockbrook Girl Guides and a dance in the Church Room.

THE FLOWER SHOW

In a large marquee there was a flower show at which there was a record number of entries, while Messrs. Barron and Son and Mr. H. L. Cholerton provided stands with unique collections of flowers which were not for competition. The judges were Messrs. J. Woodward (Draycott), G. Wright, and J. Chapman, Mr. Walker (bread) and Mr. W. Oates (eggs)......

An exellent programme of instrumental music was given by the Long Eaton Silver Prize Band.

The concluding event was a grand sacred concert by a massed choir of 100 voices, in the Wesleyan Church, Borrowash, on Sunday evening. Mr. F. H. Owen,L.N.C.M. conducted to Mr. H. Garratt on the organ.

(August 19, 1932)

A RECORD ATTENDANCE.

At Ockbrook and Borrowash
Hospital Carnival

The thirty-first annual effort by Ockbrook and Borrowash took place in the Vicarage field, Victoria Avenue on Saturday afternoon in glorious weather.

There was a record attendance, over 1,000 people being on the ground. The committee which had the arrangements in hand included the president (Mr. E. H. Howard), the indefatigable general secretary (Mr. Frank Smith), Mr. Walker Smith (chairman), Mr. T. Ashton (assistant secretary), and Mr. F. J. Spicer (treasurer), and supporting them were hundreds of voluntary workers.

The opening item was a brilliant and spectacular pageant of young people, (600 in number), all clad in Eastern costumes and the procession moved up Victoria Avenue (which was thronged) in the following order:- Secretary's car, President's car, Long Eaton Silver Band, Mr. Geo. Dean in car attired as Sultan, ladies' harem, Breaston Drum and Fife Band, radio van, and finally the children's portion of the pageant.

Mrs. E. E. Hill of East Croft, Ockbrook, in graceful terms, opened the carnival, and Mr. Howard (president) thanked her for her services.

There were numerous attractions for the public, and the ground was soon crowded. A dog show, a flower show, Punch and Judy performances by Mr. Duval of Sheffield, a Persian Market, where the Churches and other organisations had provided dainty stalls of fancy and useful articles (the Moravian, Parish and St. Stephen's and Methodist Churches) were all largely patronised, while the hut was improvised by the Borrowash Methodist Church as a cafe. There was also a magic pump and bran tub provided by the Girl Guides, coconuts, roundabouts and bowling at the wicket by the cricket club, hoop-la (Ex-Servicemen's Club), bean bags, skittles and many other attractions. There was a cicket match between Ockbrook and Boulton and a series of entertainments by Clown Smilean and his comical donkey and Les-Edat's comedy acrobats, a whist drive and an oriental dance in the evening. The Long Eaton Silver Prize Band was in attendance and gave selections under Bandmaster Evett's direction. The local V. A. D. nurses and the St. John Ambulance Association also assisted. In a 7-seven walk organised by the Derby Sports Club, the winners were:- 1.J.Lindley, 2.W, Robinson, 3.F. H. Treece.

Under the auspices of the local Canine Society a sanction show of dogs proved a decided attraction.....There were twelve classes and about 90 entries.......

THE FLOWER SHOW

The judges at the flower show, where there was an excellent display, were Messrs. J. Woodward, G. Wright and J. Chapman and for the bread, Mr. F. Walker.......

In the evening there was a crowded dance in the Church Hut, at which Mr. Wylie Price's Orchestral Band was in attendance and Mr. B. Brearley was M. C. A lantern procession led by Breaston Carnival Band, took place at 9.30, to a field in Coal Lane where a huge bonfire was lighted and songs were sung by the assembled crowd.

(August 25, 1933)

OCKBROOK & BORROWASH

HOSPITALS' COMMITTEE.

Statement of Proceeds of Hospital Day 1932.

DEAR FRIEND,

It is with great pleasure we present a statement of our 1932 Hospital Effort.

In a brief and simple manner we desire to convey to all who have in any way contributed to the making possible the Ockbrook & Borrowash Hospital Day, an earnest and sincere expression of gratitude.

For the gifts of money, of goods, the hours of labour ungrudgingly given by an army of friends, and the assistance received in a thousand ways, we are indeed thankful.

We are,
Yours very Sincerely,
E. H. HOWARD, *President.*
C. A. WALKER SMITH, *Chairman.*
B. A. M. ALGER, *Treasurer.*
FRANK SMITH, *Gen. Organising Sec.*
EDWARD ASHTON, *Asst. Hon. Sec.*

OCKBROOK & BORROWASH HOSPITALS' COMMITTEE.

PROCEEDS OF HOSPITAL DAY AUGUST 13TH, 1932.

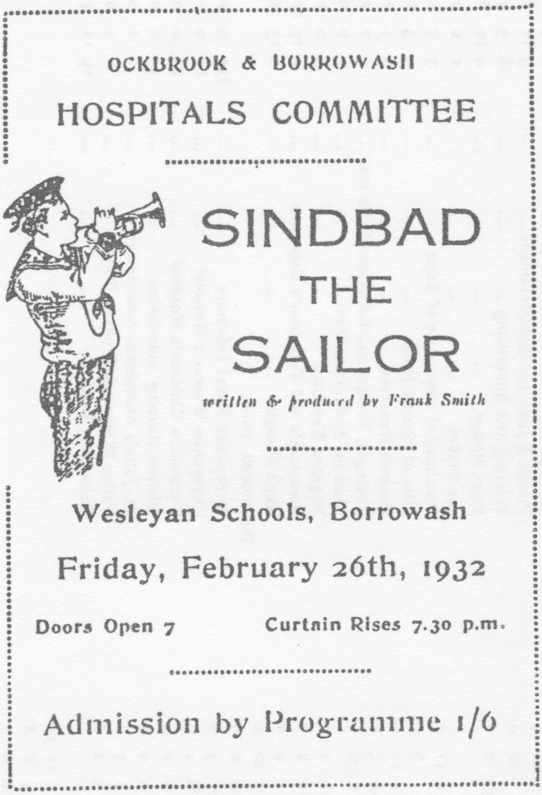
RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.
To Balance at Bank, (1931)	7	10	7
CHURCH STALLS—			
Parish Church	8	2	9
St. Stephen's	6	10	6
Moravian	14	15	9
Methodist Ockbrook	1	16	8
Victoria Avenue Methodist Borrowash ...	3	12	0
Wesley Church Borrowash (Café)	30	0	0
OTHER ORGANISATIONS (Stalls & Side Shows)—			
Ockbrook Girl Guides	4	11	0
Borrowash Girl Guides	1	9	0
Golf Club	4	12	0
Cricket Club	10	4	7
Ex-Service Men's Club, Institute	8	6	3
Brookside Tennis Club	2	4	9
Meadow View " "	2	9	0
Wesley Church Guild	1	4	0
Women's Cooperative Guild	7	10	0
Women's Institute	6	0	0
Mothers Meeting	11	5	0
V.A.D. Nurses	6	1	4
Buffaloes, (Ockbrook & Borrowash) ...	6	0	0
Football Club	2	2	2
Ice Cream Stall	4	3	0
Mr. Harrison's Elephant racing	5	2	8
OTHER RECEIPTS—			
"Wendyland"	5	11	10
Raffles and Cake Guessing	4	8	8
Flowers and Horticulture Show	18	8	3
Donations	12	3	6
Entrance Tickets	57	10	0
Handbooks	14	17	0
Sacred Concerts	10	9	2
Concert programmes	1	4	8
Collecting boxes	40	13	0
Dance profits	8	17	6
Bank Interest	0	12	4
	£330	18	11

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.
By Expenses of Fayre—	2	9	4
Carting and Carriage	17	1	0
Printing Handbooks	1	15	0
Flower Show Expenses	15	11	0
Marquees	8	15	0
Band (Long Eaton Silver Prize)	3	11	6
Punch & Judy and Entertainment	18	3	3
Printing and Advertising	0	10	6
Prize Money	2	0	0
100 Stakes	3	7	2
Purchase of 1000 yards of Rope	3	3	0
Hire of Church Room	0	4	0
Concert Expenses	1	2	0
Postages, Telegrams, Telephone Calls etc. ...	0	2	0
Teas for Ambulance Men	5	0	0
Pageant Expenses	0	17	10
Secretary's and Treasurer's Expenses ...	0	13	0
Bank Charges			
DONATIONS TO—			
Derbyshire Royal Infirmary	150	0	0
Derbyshire Women's Hospital	25	0	0
Derbyshire Children's Hospital	25	0	0
District Nursing Association	25	0	0
St. John's Ambulance Association	1	1	0
Police Widows & Orphans Fund	1	1	0
Balance at Bank...	19	11	4
	£330	18	11

Audited and found correct,
FRANK J. SPICER,
J. LOFTUS.
December 20th, 1932.



OCKBROOK & BORROWASH

HOSPITALS COMMITTEE

SINDBAD
THE
SAILOR

written & produced by Frank Smith

Wesleyan Schools, Borrowash

Friday, February 26th, 1932

Doors Open 7 **Curtain Rises 7.30 p.m.**

Admission by Programme 1/6

PRESS REPORT

TO AID HOSPITALS. There were crowded and appreciative audiences present at a two-day pantomime held in the Wesleyan Schools, on Friday and Saturday under the auspices of the Ockbrook and Borrowash Hospitals Committee, in aid of the Derby Hospitals. 'Sinbad the Sailor' was the title of the entertainment, the words and acts being produced by Mr. Frank Smith, the hon. secretary of the committee. Mr. E. Vincent, of the Derby Hippodrome kindly lent the curtain and scenery for the stage, and the excellent electric lighting effects were lent by the Borrowash Electric Supply Stores. The pantomime was exceedingly well staged, there being about forty performers, including a large number of children, whose singing and recitals of their parts delighted the audiences. There was a small but excellent band with Mr. H. Garratt at the piano as musical director, Mr. Griffin (violin), Mr. Watkinson (drums and effects), and Mr. Howard (xylophone). The costumes were brilliant and well chosen, and rounds of applause greeted the performers.
(5 March, 1932)

AN APPEAL

Please would readers let me know of any errors they find in this booklet? Memories can sometimes be faulty and the listener can misinterpret so that mistakes creep in.

These chapters raise many questions. What is known about all the people who are mentioned? Some may be remembered still and some may merit a biography, however brief. What is known of the old buildings which have disappeared? Who remembers the stained glass in Dr. Smith's house, the library in Borrowash Manor, or the timbers in Ockbrook Manor? Where might there be a photograph of the 1868 vicarage in Victoria Avenue, or of the old Church House, or Brookfield?

Are there no copies of the pageant handbooks still in existence? Are there no copies of old parish magazines (in addition to those so usefully displayed in the St. Stephen's Centenary exhibition, 1989)? Parish magazines in the fifties included articles on the village history by Miss Mabel Nelson, and in the sixties by Mr. J. W. Harnan. Some of these are in Derby's Local Studies Library, but where are the rest? These are not requests for the material itself, merely for a sight of it and perhaps a brief loan for making a photocopy.

Much more important are the many people who have their own memories of 50, 60, or even 70 years ago. How can their knowledge of past years be saved for the future if we do not listen and write it down now? I shall be delighted to hear from anyone who can add a little to the story.

Marion Johnson,
199, Victoria Avenue,
Borrowash.

NOTES

Chapters 2-5 make use of the Minute Books of the Ockbrook Parish Council held by the Derbyshire Record Office at Matlock. Ref. 1574 A/P.C. 1/2/3/4

Chapter 3. The Changing Parish

(1)Derby Evening Telegraph, 8 September, 1933.
(2)Contemporary spelling has been used. The name was changed to Cole Lane in 1949.
(3)Derby Evening Telegraph, 27 July, 1961.
(4)Waterways World, November, 1976, p.22.

Chapter 5. The Parish Council and its Members

(1)Gaskell, Ernest, Derbyshire Leaders, Social and Political (1907).
(2)Pike, W.T. (ed.) Contemporary Biographies. Notts. and Derby at the opening of the Twentieth Century, (1901) and Derby Evening Telegraph, 27 December, 1933.
(3)Derbyshire Advertiser, 17 November, 1933.
(4)The Rev. I. B. Ll. Gibbs, speaking at the funeral of J. Birkinshaw, reported in the Derbyshire Advertiser, 5 January, 1934.
(5)Derbyshire Advertiser, 5 January, 1934.
(6)Derbyshire Advertiser, 19 May, 1933.
(7)Derbyshire Advertiser, 6 October, 1961.

Chapter 6. Sport

(1)Wainwright, P.(ed.) Ockbrook and Borrowash Cricket Club, 1872-1972, (1972)
(2)Derby Evening Telegraph, 1 January, 1975. Article by Malcolm Edmondson.

Chapter 7. Pageants, Processions and Pantomimes

The Minute Book of the Ockbrook and Borrowash Hospitals' Committee, 1931-1934 is the major source for this chapter.
(1)Radford, Brian, Midland Line Memories (1983)
(2)Lowe, E. I., 1912-1962, Fifty Years at Ockbrook School. (1962) Typescript.
(3)Derbyshire Advertiser,6 September,1929.
(4)Hospitals' Committee Minute Book, 13 January, 1934.
(5)Derbyshire Advertiser, ? January, 1934.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to the many people who have given their time to talk to me about the past and to those who have helped in other ways. In particular I would like to thank:-

Mr. J. Brennan
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Miss E. Dyche
Mrs. M. Fessey
Mrs. D. Hodges
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The Rev. D. Newman
Mr. T. Parnham
Mr. D. Rodgers
The staff of Derby Local Studies Library.
The staff of the Derbyshire Record Office.

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